

We claim:

1. A method for increasing assay throughput of a clinical analyzer wherein the analyzer is initially configured such that whichever operating resources within the analyzer are throughput limiting, those resources may be incrementally added to the analyzer as incoming assay demand increases.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the throughput is limited by the availability of assay reagent resources.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein additional assay reagent resources may be added to the analyzer in a first increment such that assay throughput is increased by about 50%.
4. The method of claim 2 wherein additional assay reagent resources may be added to the analyzer in first and second increments such that assay throughput is increased by about 50% and by about 33%, respectively.
5. The method of claim 2 wherein additional assay reagent resources a reagent storage area and at least one reagent aspiration and dispense arm.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the analyzer is further initially configured such that the operating resources which are not throughput limiting are also initially adapted to accommodate the addition of throughput limiting resources.